

Amendments to the Drawings:

Enclosed in the Appendix are eight sheets of formal drawings for Figures 1 - 16 to replace the informal drawings filed on December 14, 2001. The Applicants request the entry of the new formal drawings at this time.

In the Office Action dated 09/29/2003, Figures 9 - 10 of the drawings stand objected to by the Examiner for the inclusion of dimensional and other data. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the drawings on these grounds. The Applicants have reviewed the MPEP and have been unable to find a rule that precludes the inclusion of the objected to information in the drawings. Furthermore, the Applicants note that similar drawings, Figures 51 - 53 of U.S. patent 6,537,631 B1 that issued to Ligia A. Rivera on March 25, 2003, were not objected to on these grounds. Copies of the relevant drawing sheets have been included for the Examiner's review in the Appendix. Since an amendment to the drawings could prejudice the Applicants by creating prosecution history estoppel, the Applicants either request entry of the drawings as submitted or for the Examiner to cite a rule supporting his position.

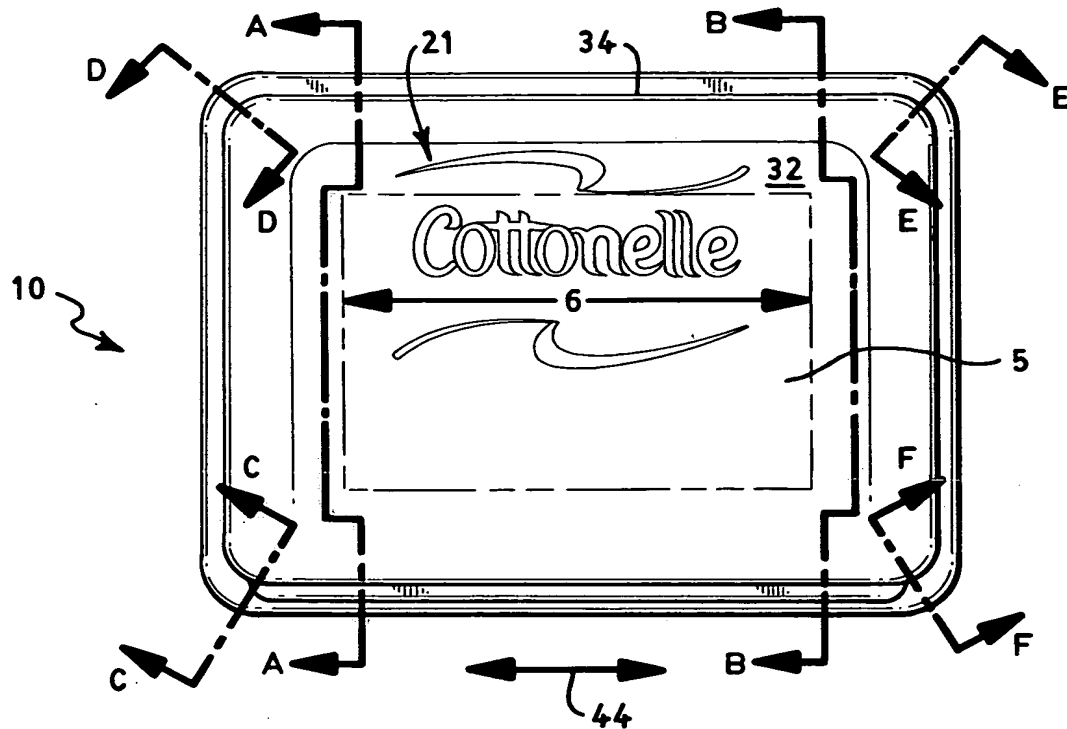


FIG. 1

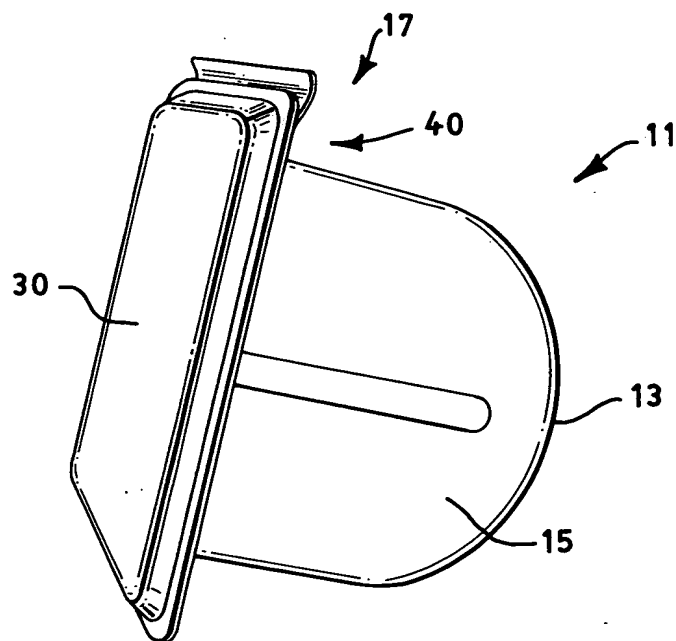


FIG. 2

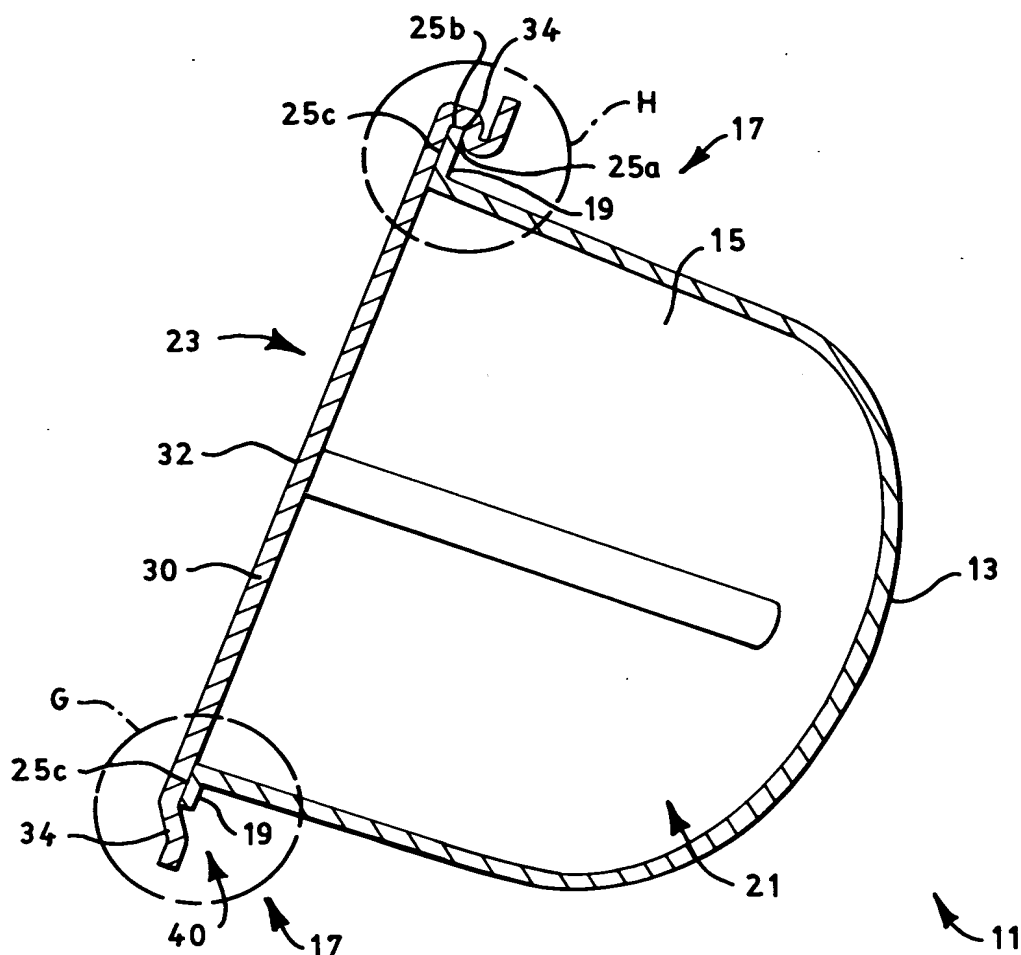


FIG. 3

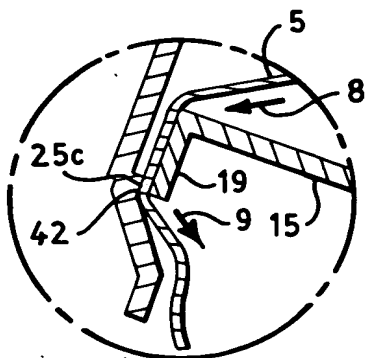


FIG. 5

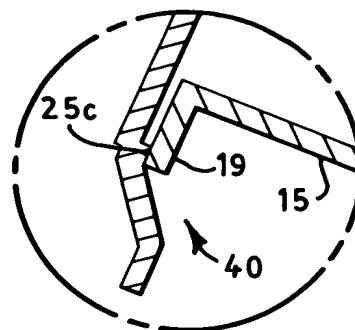


FIG. 4

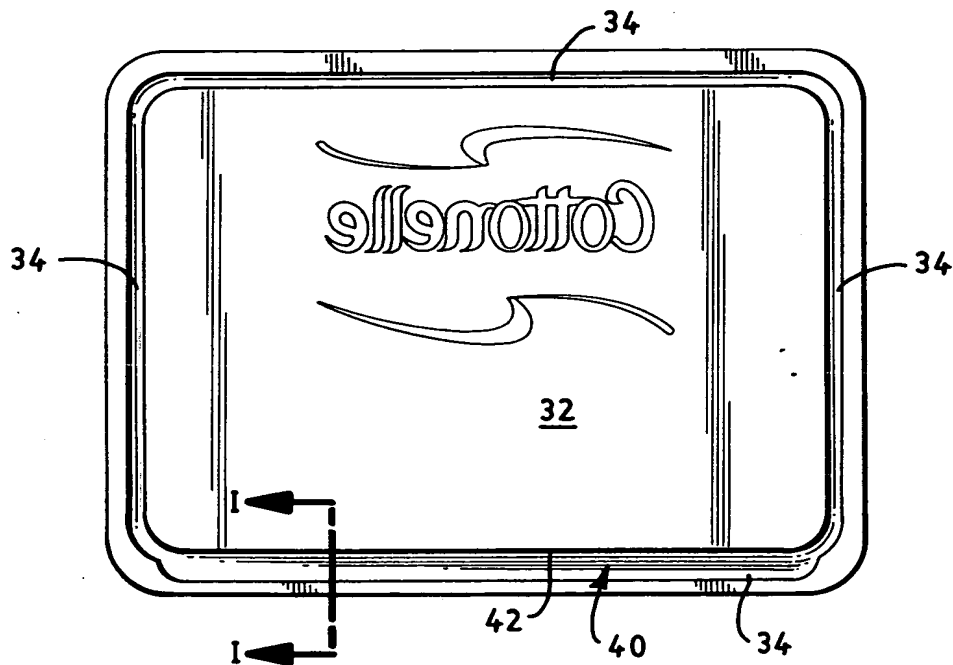


FIG. 6

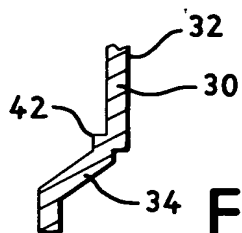


FIG. 7

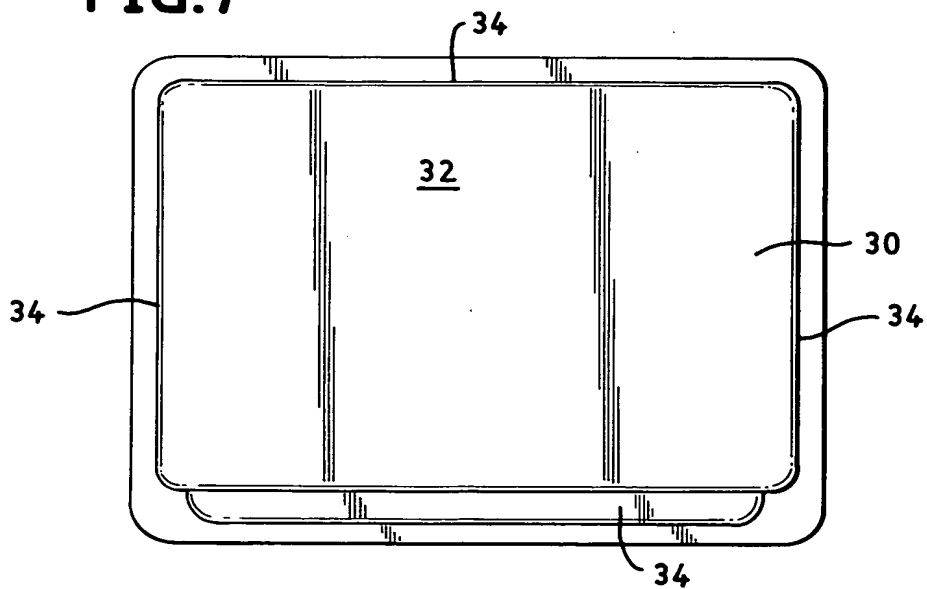


FIG. 8



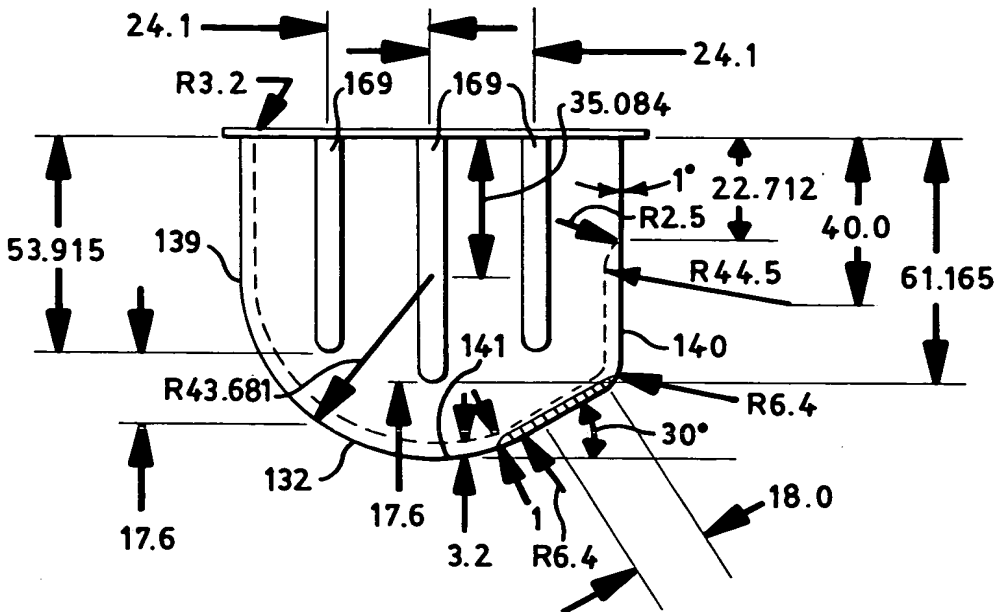
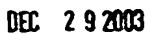


FIG. 11

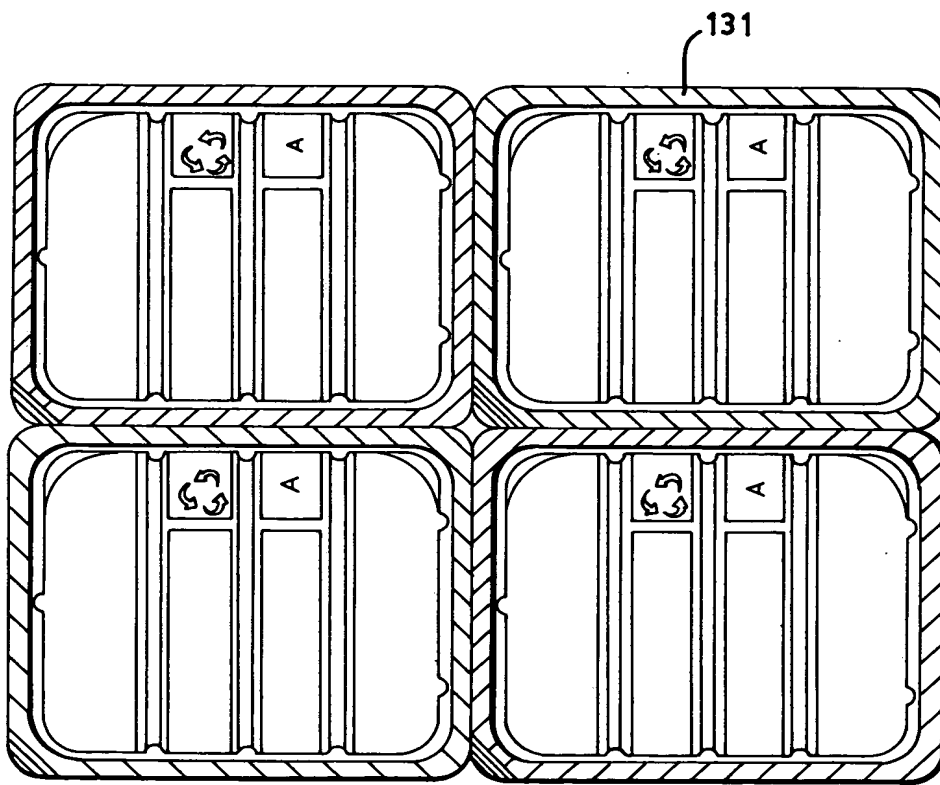


FIG. 12

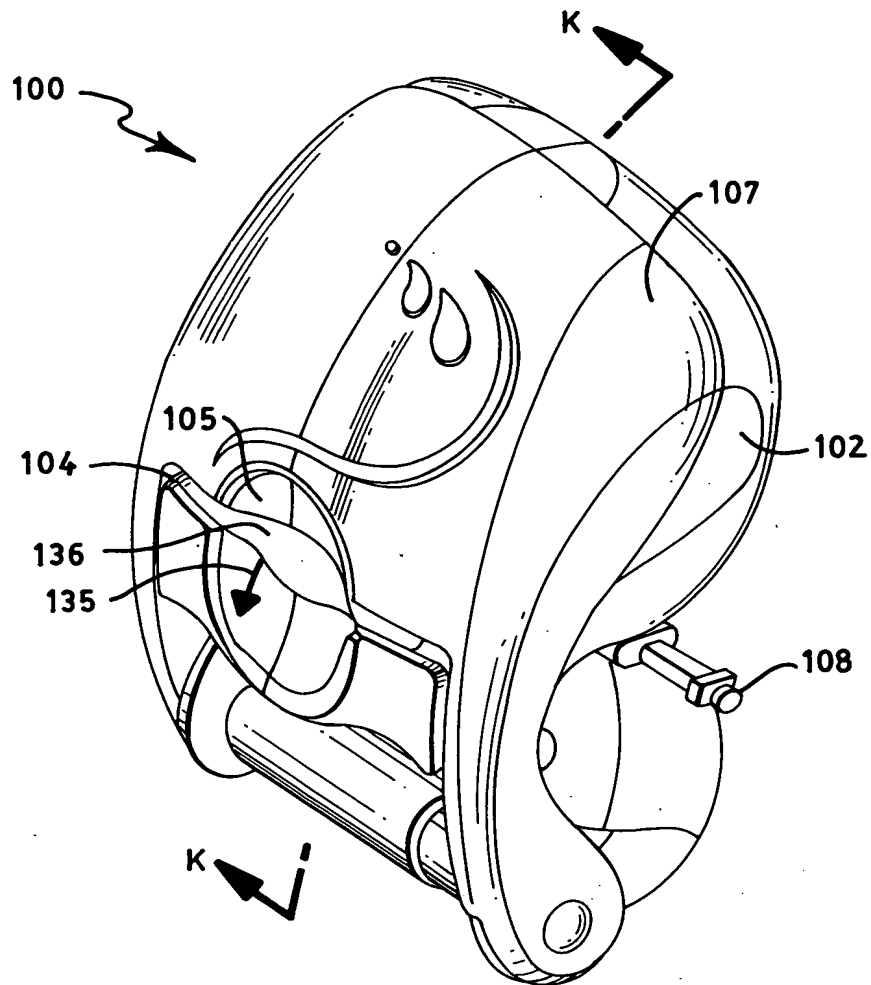


FIG. 13

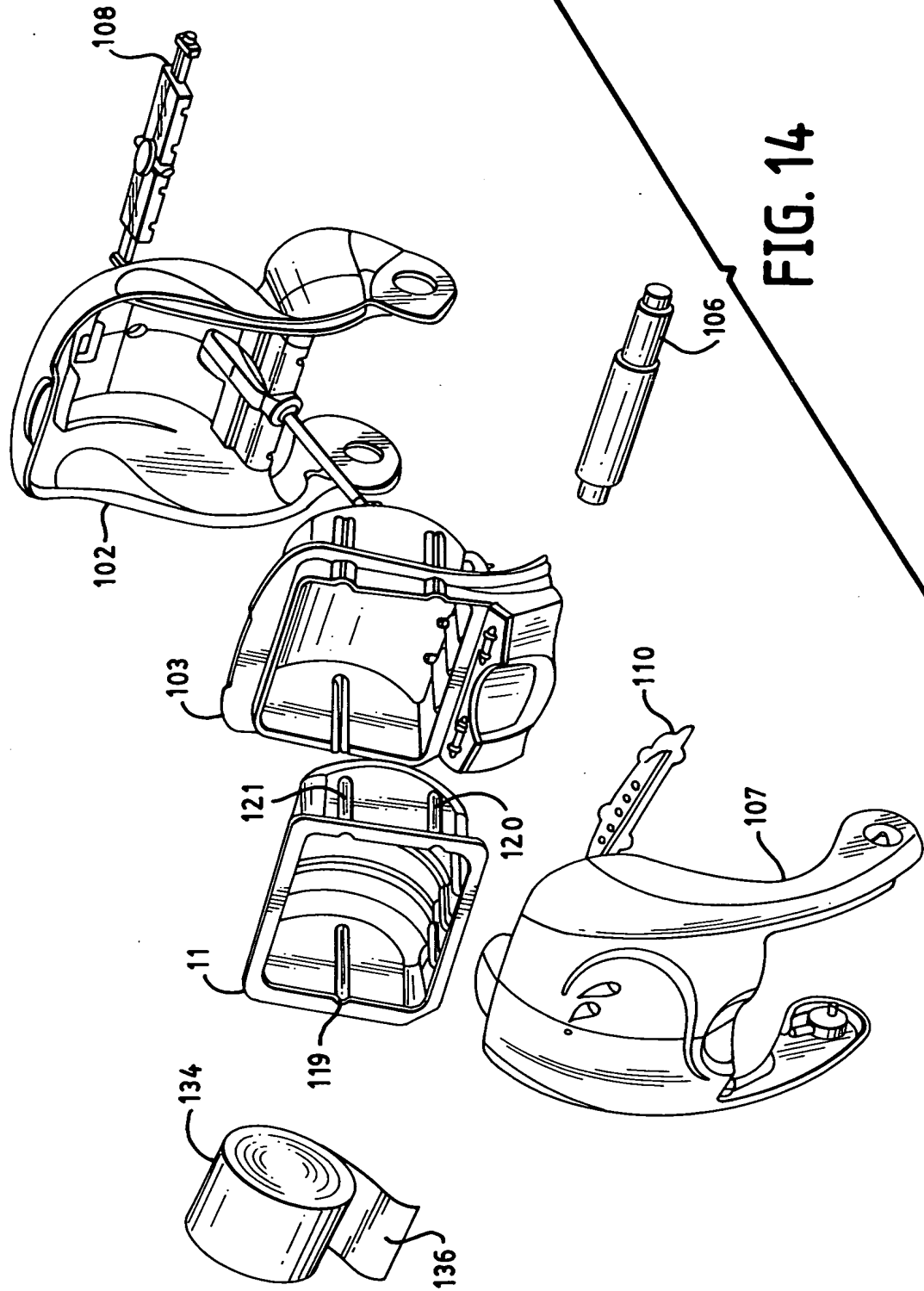


FIG. 14

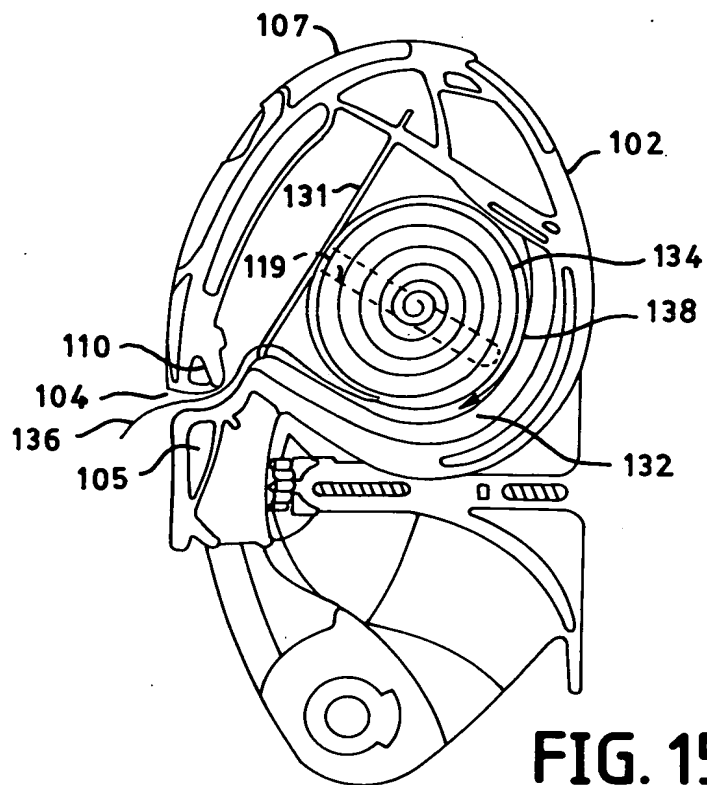


FIG. 15

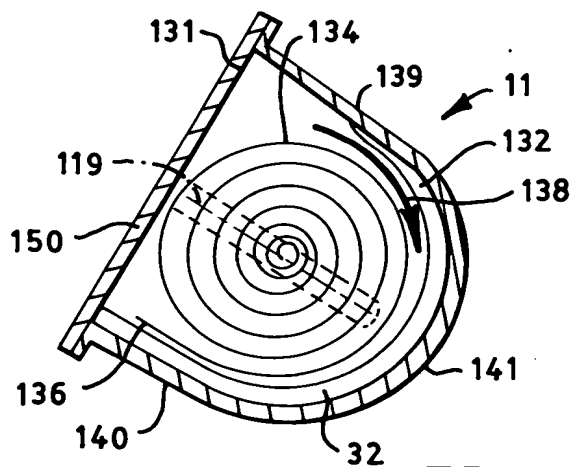


FIG. 16